Revision in prices of petroleum products

2279. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil companies have asked Government to revise petrol and diesel prices following the levy of additional road cess and changes in excise duty structure in the budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the new prices will the effective from 1st April, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Oil Marketing Companies have requested an increase in petrol and diesel prices on account of the unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in the international oil prices, especially during the current month; and changes in tariff structure on petrol and diesel in the Union Budget for 2005-06, in including increase in the levy of road cess by 50 paise per litre on each product; and fuel quality upgradation requirements in line with the Auto Fuel Policy.

The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Review of policy of supply of ethanol blended petrol

2280. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for mandatory blending of ethanol in petrol, aimed at cutting the country's crude oil import dependence, introduced in some identified States, suffered a set back during 2003-04 due to decline in sugar production and non-availability of molasses in sufficient quantity to support the programme;

(b) if so, the results of review of the programme undertaken, if any; and

(c) the fresh initiative taken/being taken to ensure sustained supply of ethanol, at reasonable prices so as to maintain the supply of ethanol-blended petrol in the identified States and subsequently in other parts of the country as well?